

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and

(b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

2. **(Original)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. **(Previously Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring variant of a polypeptide having kinase activity comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of SEQ ID NO:1 in 0.5M sodium phosphate, 7% SDS at 65°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC at 65°C.

5-6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is completely complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, or 5.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, or 5, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

C 11 9. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, or 5.

10. **(Original)** The vector of claim 9, which is an expression vector.

11. **(Original)** A host cell transfected with the vector of claim 9.

12. **(Previously Amended)** A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing a host cell transfected with the vector of claim 9 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide expressed by the nucleic acid molecule.

13-21. **(Cancelled)**

C 12 22. **(Currently Amended)** A kit comprising a the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, or 5 to a compound which selectively hybridizes in 0.5M sodium phosphate, 7% SDS at 65°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC at 65°C, to a compound nucleic acid molecule and instructions for use.

23-30. **(Cancelled)**

31. **(Previously Added)** The method defined in claim 12, further comprising isolating the polypeptide.

C 13 32. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which is consisting of nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of SEQ ID NO:1.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which is consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

34. **(Cancelled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 4 which is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of SEQ ID NO:1.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 4 which is at least 97% homologous to SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 4 which is at least 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 63 to 4991 5012 of SEQ ID NO:1.

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38. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 4 which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 98% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 4 which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 99% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
